

greenlink

Connecting Greenville

Gas prices are going up. Yet, most American cities remain heavily invested in and dependent upon the personal automobile as a sole means of transportation. This kind of failure to invest in diversifying transportation options leads to significant waste in gasoline, household finances, and even travel time as well as unnecessary increases in pollution (which can in turn affect a community's ability to attract new businesses based on tax exemptions allowed for quality air attainment!). Basically, the "value" of public transportation to a community really adds up - even for those who don't use it! The following statistics compiled by the American Public Transportation Association demonstrate the kind of savings which can be generated through the development of a strong public transportation system.



- Access to bus and rail lines reduces driving by 4,400 miles per household annually.
- Americans living in areas served by public transportation save 646 million hours in travel time and 398 million gallons of fuel annually in congestion reduction alone.
- Without public transportation, congestion costs would have been an additional \$13.7 billion.
- Public transportation's overall effects save the United States 4.2 billion gallons of gasoline annually - more than 3 times the amount of gasoline imported from Kuwait.
- Households near public transit drive an average of 4,400 fewer miles than households with no access to public transit. This equates to an individual household reduction of 223 gallons per year.
- Households that use public transportation and live with one less car can save on average \$9,000 every year.
- Communities that invest in public transit reduce the nation's carbon emissions by 37 million metric tons annually - equivalent to New York City; Washington, DC; Atlanta; Denver; and Los Angeles combined stopping using electricity.
- One person switching to public transit can reduce daily carbon emissions by 20 pounds, or more than 4,800 pounds in a year.
- A single commuter switching his or her commute to public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10% and up to 30% if he or she eliminates a second car. When compared to other household actions that limit CO₂, taking public transportation can be 10 times greater in reducing this harmful greenhouse gas.